

APRIL 15, 1920

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AND

AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING



A New Aeromarine Product; the A. S. Fighting Seaplane

VOLUME VIII

Number 6

SPECIAL FEATURES

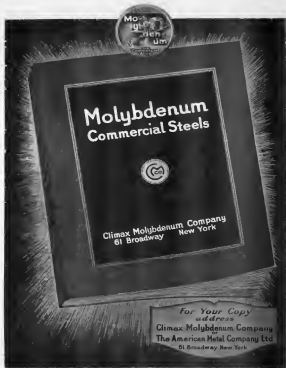
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Attention Mr. E. W. Burdell

Dear Sir:—The approach of the Christmas and New Year season prompts us to write to you in appreciation of your very earnest co-operation with us during the past year.

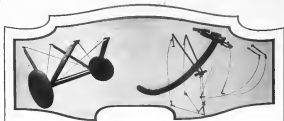
Your engineers have at all times seemed willing to lend their closest efforts to making up of the many emergencies which have arisen during the past year. Your promptness has been at all times up to our best expectations.

Wishing you and your organization every pleasure of the season and the best success for the new year, we are

Yours very truly,

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AVIATION

AND
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VOL. VIII. NO. 6

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THE GARDNER-MOFFAT COMPANY, Inc., Publishers

HARTFORD BUILDING, UNION SQUARE, 22 EAST SEVENTEENTH STREET, NEW YORK

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Vol. VIII

April 15, 1938

No. 9

THE Aeronautical Show which opens on April 21, at San Francisco is the first affair of this kind ever held on the Pacific Coast. As such it will undoubtedly attract a large number of visitors whose practical acquaintance with aeronautics was hitherto restricted to seeing various Army airplanes in the sky or on the ground. A surprising demonstration of the scope aviation has now reached in its application to the demands of air transport was hitherto lacking in that important section of the United States. The coming Aeronautical Show will fortunately correct that deficiency and the Manufacturers Aircraft Association—to whose untiring efforts the exposition will owe its existence—is to be congratulated for having taken this step, which is in keeping with its far-sighted policy.

It is therefore to be hoped that the Show will do much to arouse the Pacific Coast to the realization that aircraft offers a means of communication superior to any other in the matter of speed, and fully comparable as to safety and comfort.

Inclination of Wings on Sand Test

At the present moment there is a feeling amongst engineers, that the commonly used inclination of 14 deg. on sand testing is excessive, and that 7 or 8 deg. would be a more correct figure.

When the 14 deg. inclination was first employed in this country, the reason given was that it conformed to French practice, and to impose a heavy drag load on the frame, as drag loads seemed to be the cause of the most serious trouble in flight.

The inclination of 14 deg., however, tends to impose a greater drag on the wings than would be present even on the steepest of dives at terminal velocity, and a much greater drag load than is present on recovery after a dive.

It would seem as if decreasing the inclination of the wings on sand tests would be a step in the right direction.

Maintenance of Flight in Twin Engine Machines

Recent experimentation on propellers indicates that a propeller, whether at rest, or rotating slowly as a wind mill, may have quite a considerable negative thrust coefficient. This negative thrust coefficient may be in the neighborhood of 30 per cent of the thrust coefficient of the propeller under ordinary flight conditions.

This result is not unexpected by engineers, and has an important bearing on the question of maintenance

of flight for the twin engine machine with one motor out of commission.

It has sometimes been thought that in order to determine the possibility of flight on one motor, all that was necessary was to draw the usual required horsepower figure, and half the horsepower available. Unfortunately, this is such too favorable an assumption.

With one motor, there is considerable rudder control required, which in turn means banking, and consequent loss of altitude. If the motor is just burning over and firing, its thrust coefficient may be zero, but if it is completely at rest or revolving slowly as a windmill, it will produce a large negative thrust, which will result in an appreciable decrease of available power.

This point requires very careful consideration in the design of twin engine planes and in testing them; it would seem particularly important to have one motor completely out of commission, and not revolving at a low speed or just being stationary.

Refined Air-Cooled Motors

The recent specifications issued by the Engineering Division of the Air Service, mark a very important development. Although the stationary air-cooled motor has not yet got beyond the experimental stage, there is no doubt that such engines are destined to play a very important part in all future airplane development.

The Air Service, while making no claim to the full extent the success that the British constructors have achieved in this field, is very wisely calling on the best American talent, so that the problem may be tackled independently on this side.

The specifications call for a very high standard of achievement, but, at the same time, give the designer great independence of action. A brake horsepower of between 300 to 370 is called for at 1,500 r.p.m. of the motor. This probably is as good a compromise as the airplane designer can hope to have. The fuel consumption called for must not exceed 56 lb. per h. hp. hour, which is a moderately liberal figure. The engine must not weigh over 2 lb. per h. hp. at normal r.p.m. The maximum diameter is not to exceed 30 in. The tests imposed are extremely severe, and include a 50-hr. endurance test.

Builders are given plenty of time for the development of the engine and no doubt reconnaissance will be on a liberal scale.

It is extremely gratifying to see this important development started by the government on such satisfactory lines.

Universal Test Engine

By Glenn D. Anglin

Engineer in Charge of Engine Design, Engineering Division, Air Service

Engineers, and generally agree, that despite the marvelous progress made in the development of high speed internal combustion engines during recent years, there still remains much to be accomplished toward increasing efficiency and improving design generally. The demands for better engines become progressively brought back new ideas affecting improvement in efficiency, that through study of the engine as an art as present are of especially great design, there is scarcely any reliable and accurate scientific data which could be used in forming a proper basis for comparison.

One must take into account, however, that there are many interfering factors in dependent upon each other that so in-

fluences engine, which is generally constructed of very light weight parts made from the highest grades of material. A partially false opportunity for improvement is offered in this respect, but the marked differences between weight pressure, fuel consumption, and other important performance characteristics clearly demonstrates the need for extensive development along other lines. One of the most important of these is undoubtedly the design and construction of the cylinder and its adjacent components.

Heretofore, the development of a cylinder has been carried on a complete engine, but seldom produces satisfactory results as quickly as desired. Moreover, for multi-cylinder

engines Test Engine overcomes this difficulty, as it is so designed that most any cylinder can be tested on it, but before describing this engine it would be well to briefly explain the specific reasons for its design.

Immediately following the signing of the armistice, the organization of the Governmental Experimental Airplane Division at McCook Field, Dayton, Ohio, began to rapidly adjust itself to the new duties, which included principally the performing of certain airplane and engine tests on land, and as a technical division to accumulate data and prepare designs for future construction which should place this country in a proper rank in the status of military aviation.

Engine design development should provide plane development by one plane or more, it was clearly evident that a good engine program was of the utmost importance. Only a few American designs were considered of military value and so became immediately underlying the necessary improvements on these engines, the design of other types of land to be needed was also placed under careful consideration.

The factor design it was very apparent that the former methods of development were entirely impractical, and the data used results could hardly be expected with the limited amount of means available for this work. It was therefore decided to construct some sort of engine which would allow for accurately testing different sizes and designs of cylinders under varying conditions, so that the performance and consequently the value of any particular design could be determined before



FIG. 2. SIDE VIEW OF UNIVERSAL TEST ENGINE

each even when it might be desirable to determine the effects of certain components at various speeds by testing a cylinder in a vacuum altitude chamber. All other outstanding features are best explained in the description of the various parts which immediately follow.

Crankcase

The crankcase is made in halves and divided along the horizontal crank centerline in the conventional manner. The upper and lower halves contain the crankshaft bearings and the two are held together usually by four long and sturdy bearing studs, together with the four shorter bearing bolts. There are also adjacent holes through the outer flanges which give an oil tight joint. The walls, and in fact all sections, are made extremely heavy. The casting, which is made of cast iron, produces a very rapid frame member and should prevent serious damage to one any rotating part.

The main and gear compartments are separated by a wall so that the gears are not exposed to the crankcase vapors. On either side of the crank compartment are large bored holes which permit inspection and the adjustment of connecting rod bolts. When the engine is in running condition these inspection holes are covered by hinged doors, retaining screws which are in position to prevent oil from being blown out or any foreign substance from entering the engine.

Crankshaft

A great deal of thought had to be given the design of a crankshaft for this engine on account of various lengths of strokes which were to be used. Interchangeable crankshafts could

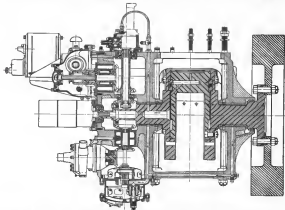


FIG. 1. LONGITUDINAL CROSS-SECTION OF UNIVERSAL TEST ENGINE

dividual analysis of each engine is practically impossible. Furthermore, engine designs are usually of such a varied nature that only the most pronounced differences in performance will permit of comparison regarding the effects of certain modifications. Nevertheless, something should be done in this line of substantial data not only handles scientific progress but generally leaves the engineer in a quandary in selecting the design or combination of designs that should produce the results expected in a most efficient manner.

As a rule, the mechanical efficiency of an internal combustion engine is comparatively high. This is particularly true of the

forms, such a method of development obviously entails considerable expense. Under normal conditions, one cylinder of an engine functions exactly like the others, and improvements in one affect improvements in all; hence, cylinder development can be carried out just as successfully, and with much less difficulty or expense, on a single-cylinder engine constructed for the purpose. A few two cylinder of this sort have been built, but in every case were intended only for test designs and the limit of experimentation was thus limited to that particular cylinder. Whenever it was required to develop other sizes of designs, new test engines had to be constructed. The Un-

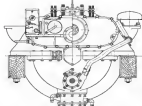


FIG. 3. FRONT VIEW

constructing an entire engine. Furthermore, the Engineering Division could become associated with the same performance of any cylinder selected by the manufacturer of an experimental engine prior to purchasing the complete unit.

No knowledge whatsoever of future construction of this sort existed; consequently, the probability of building an engine for these purposes demanded extreme consideration. It was not until after the entire situation had been very carefully analyzed that design and construction was satisfactory undertaken. It was proposed to obtain as wide a range of interchangeable combinations as previously possible, provide for the operation of all types of valves and valve mechanisms, and at the same time allow for quick interchangeability of parts and easy access for testing.

The chief feature of the engine as it was finally worked out is the wide range of cylinder adaptations. Cylinders can be tested which have bore diameters from 4 to 12 in., strokes, and strokes from 4 to 16 in., inches. This range includes all sizes of airplane engines that are at present in general use, and allows for experimentation with large cylinders if future requirements are demanded. Compression ratios can be easily varied, in fact even if being quite easy to obtain a range from 4 to 20. Obviously, high compression ratios can not be used continuously near the ground, but provision was made for



FIG. 4. UPPER HALF OF CRANKCASE



FIG. 5. LOWER HALF OF CRANKCASE

has been made for each length of stroke, but that undoubtedly would have introduced difficulties. It might have been so adjusted almost in every case if shafts were changed, and a reasonable shaft design, in order to be strong enough for the large horsepower crankshaft, would not be well proportioned for the smaller connecting rods. Furthermore, the slackness of counterweights in every shaft would not be consistent of a vital design problem.

The built-up crankshaft construction, shown in Fig. 5, eliminates the disadvantages referred to, and has another feature in that it serves to supplement the action of the angular flywheel and thereby helps to maintain a more constant speed of rotation.

The crankshaft assembly consists mainly of three main parts. The two red portions include the main journals internally attached to the large frame which contains the main bearings for supporting the intermediate parts. One end journal has a flange for attaching a flywheel and the other a flange for a large gear which drives the various crankshaft parts. The intermediate portion consists of a crankpin on the ends of which are mounted the connecting rods and integral discs of the proper diameter to fit flush into the recesses provided in the upper ends of the red sections. The necessity of the grooves in the main of the crankcase and connecting crank rods required to give strokes uniformly specified. By angular adjustment of the intermediate section it is clearly evident that varying crank rods can be readily secured.

The three crank sections are held together in one assembly by a total of 12 bolts, 6 on each side. These bolts have counter-sunk heads, and are fastened to the upper section by way of adjustment with the connecting rods, and are retained by slotted nuts and cotter pins. The bolts are not in line, as the driving torque is carried by thrusts or down on the slanted cotter pins on both sides. To facilitate removal, each end is provided with a tapped hole.

Counterweights are bolted on the crankpin ends of the large frame of the red system by means of bolts provided in these portions outside the connecting recesses. The bolts are uniformly spaced so that it becomes impossible to accurately install counterweights from some predetermined location. The weights are of such proportions and the centers of gravity are so located from the crank center, that the crankshaft assembly is self-aligning to bring in static balance provided for the balance of half of the connecting inertia forces. As is generally understood, perfect balancing of the balance on a single cylinder engine can be accomplished only at the expense of introducing an unbalanced component of equal magnitude along the horizontal. However, in a multi-cylinder, the forces are least if considered in every direction.

A variable three crankshaft is an apparently very different and expensive to produce, but one which, in an absolute period of perfection, and when supplied with an additional counterweight, would be a half machine, a machine for a long purpose, much better than would four, or in other words the equivalent number of crankshaft assembly to give that equal stroke length. Even without any special balancing, the crankshaft of this design was so accurately balanced, that when assembled it had much better bearing alignment than the average crankshaft made by one piece.

Connecting Rods

It became necessary to provide for more than one length of connecting rod on account of the limits to which a system was restricted by cylinder stroke, but it was found that only one rod was needed for each even stroke length. One of the ends of the rod for each particular length of stroke was established by the center support to keep the stresses within safe limits with the largest diameter cylinder with the smallest. It was also clear that the short of the smallest cylinders, whose diameters in each case should not be less than the stroke length.

Since the crankpin diameter is more than double the cylinder bearing in the same for all rods and made of sufficient length to satisfy all conditions. The upper end of the rod is likewise made simply large and a bearing inserted to give the desired diameter of piston pin bearing. The width of the upper end is limited by the length of bearing required in the smallest piston that would probably be used with each stroke, and by careful analysis it was found possible to so proportion these bearings that at no time were pistons lost, bearing pressure exceeded.

Connectors

It was necessary to provide two crankshafts in order to test all types of 4- and 7-horsepower cylinder designs, a four-horsepower engine is operated through pump tank from a crankshaft mounted in the crankcase. These crankshafts were automatically loaded in each end of the main and at a distance from the center sufficient to allow for opening the valve gear of the largest cylinder which could be used. The shafts are driven through spring gears, so will be noted from Fig. 3. An other gear is mounted on a shaft between the driving and driven gears, and it can be easily removed when the particular crankshaft which it drives is not to be used. The crankshaft gear is held in place on the shaft by three screws. By providing a certain different odd number of holes in each pin, it is possible to effect an adjustment for timing purposes in both.

The shaft is supported in three slip clamps bearings which are assembled into the crankcase and is inserted into the crankcase from the red. When the assembly is in place the bearings are held from turning by the below shaft, through which oil is supplied under pressure.

The part of the shaft extending into the crank compartment is splined for the purpose of driving cam. Individual cam of any desired shape is size being the proper splined hole can be obtained. These are held in the correct longitudinal position by spacing screws which slip over the outside of the splines. The whole assembly is then clamped together by means of a nut down on tightly against the steel roller which rests on the rear bearing of the crankshaft.

Push and guide rods are usually of special design depending of course upon the particular requirements. The push and guide bearings are bolted on top of the crankcase, over a hole through which the connecting rods pass. When bearings are not to be used the holes are covered by plates.



FIG. 6. THE BUILT-UP CRANKCASE COVERING

Overhead crankshafts are to be considered as a part of the cylinder design, as a crankshaft and a cylinder are inseparable. However, attention should be directed to the fact that the advance for attaching rods is again carried out, even so far as to use the same size of splines, thus making it possible to adapt the same case in other plans.

Flywheel

The purpose of the flywheel on a single cylinder known to be suitable toward smooth running and lower motor speeds, and since in the result of storing the energy contained during periods of high torque to compensate for the low torque periods. We have in this engine the possibility of comparatively high and low torque magnitudes and also a wide speed range, it is essential to be equipped by the smallest inertial prime source. A flywheel having a sufficient amount of inertia to handle the greatest torque periods, it made very large a diameter, would, accordingly, have prohibitive peripheral speeds in certain cases. It was found possible, however, after several trial computations, to satisfy all conditions with only two times of flywheel. These were so designed, that at no time should the engine be subjected from starting at its lowest speeds more than 300 g.p.m.

Liberty Valve

Liberty valve is of the three free dry pump type, oil pressure being maintained by a slightly altered Liberty oil pump mounted on the lower part of the crankcase. The only adjustment on the pump is the addition of an extreme adjustment for varying the pressure of the relief valve spring. This provides simple means for regulating the oil pressure which is maintained in the low pressure crankcase passage. Sufficient valve resistance were incorporated so that it could be held by any one or all of the manifold, the temperature pressure, and the valve and bearing used in conjunction with driving all of the various parts and also to an oil pump.

Ignition

Either battery or magneto ignition may be employed. A Liberty generator is supported on the crankcase and driven through splines at the end of the crankshaft, and where not in use is to be replaced by a cover plate which fits its mounting flange. Distribution for battery ignition is taken care of by magnet's replacement unit mounted on the magneto base flange.

The first case cover provides space for mounting and driving four magnet's or four magnet's replacement units as desired. It is advisable to believe that as cylinder bore diameters are increased the use of more spark plugs per cylinder should



FIG. 7. TURNING END WITH MAGNETS HOUSING REMOVED



FIG. 8. INTERIOR VIEW OF MAGNETS HOUSING

improve performance as a result of the better flame propagation. Any magneto in which four spark plugs cannot be cranked, it will be possible to verify the value of the different number of sparks. Also, the proper location of spark plugs in any particular cylinder design may be determined by running tests with plugs in various positions. It is a comparatively simple matter, during the test of cylinders using dual systems, to have both magnet's and battery systems connected up, and by varying from one to the other note the effects as it made comparisons as to the merits of the two systems under identical conditions. It is also possible to compare it with this engine to see the difference in the values of various accessories of spark.

In order to derive full benefit from multiple ignition, it becomes important to have the spark wires uniformly spaced. Any magneto, therefore, should be advanced together from a common point, and the advancing apparatus should have no slackness in its movements. All magnet's are driven through lead gears from one shaft which were spaced such degree with a control and permanently mounted shaft having no integral gear gear. The angular positions of the three in shafts are varied by sliding the driving spring gear forward and back on the driving splined shaft. The driving gear is operated by a valve which is moved in a small shaft extending out outside of the housing for hook up to an instrument board.

The screw shafts on either side of the center can be readily removed from the shaft by first disconnecting the screw which is shown in the drawing. This feature is intended to be a shaft and gear assembly are supplied in order to operate magnet's having either crankshaft or ball crankshaft speeds of rotation.

It will be noted from the interior view of the magnet's housing shown in Fig. 8 that special means have been provided for adjusting the magnet's timing for spark synchronization. The magnet's driving gear is not fastened to the crankshaft, but instead, floats in a hole which is keyed to the shaft. The gear is taken through the two adjusting screws, which are to be screwed up and locked in the correct position against an extension provided on the back of the gear.

When either magnet's or magnet's replacement units are cut out, the link through which these units are driven must be closed by a cover plate. This plate is held in place by a nut spring which at other times is turned back out of the way on a vertical position.

Cooling

For testing water-cooled cylinders, circulation is maintained by a mechanical water pump attached to the end designed for the 4-cyl. Liberty engine. The water pump from the pump is piped into beyond the first external exhaust valve, and from there continues on a pipe, easily made in any desired form, to a cylinder. To make every use of it well in form, the capacity of this pump is greater than necessary, so, in order to maintain the circulation water when a cylinder is cooled on a sort of a multi-cylinder from a means for circulating and measuring flow can be constructed just outside the cylinder itself.

When testing air-cooled cylinders, the water pump should be temporarily replaced by a special cover plate designed for this purpose. An air bulb provided by a suitable device in this design against the cylinder walls for cooling. If suitable equipment is available, some very valuable data can be secured as to the cooling rate which is obtained in connection with regular cylinder tests.

conditions with respect to the ship itself. In general these possible reference conditions are based on: (a) the distance of the ship from a selected line or space, (b) the angle of the ship compared to a certain prescribed direction, (c) the altitude of the ship against the air. These three forms have variations in degree usually as follows:

A first degree control can only be with respect to the position or distance from the reference line or space. For example, to follow a straight line on the ground without reference to anything but how far you are in one mile or the other. This is an independent type of directional control; it need not, on account of the conditions involved, which increase as a diverging series as values. A first degree directional control is almost null and is practical only in starting or landing. In ordinary flight if the ship goes on or off its linear course, the reason is simply altitude is corrected.

A second degree control may be either with respect to the movement from or toward a given line or the angle at which the ship is headed. This type of control keeps "down" but it is necessary to some degree to hold a given course. The ship follows an usually large but not toward a certain fixed angle as a line. A good illustration of a second degree control was the automatic use of a gyrocompass as mentioned as the first part of this paper.

A third degree control may be with respect to acceleration referred to a line or angular velocity or angle of view (which also determines the radius of the flight path circle). This would be the governing feature of any powered control system. Under this type of control also, the ship needs acceleration, but in a non-diverging series. The distance is independent. Another way of describing this control is to say that it always operates the angular controls with a force which is directly proportional to the angular velocity. It is merely a damping control, without any reference to the actual or desired position.

A fourth degree control may be based either on angular acceleration or the rate of change in the angle of view. This is the only way of mapping the effect of a disturbance at its source. The fifth grade is the case in which the ship is in a steady state. It is almost impossible for a human pilot to accomplish this method of control in any practical case. It is not so much a control as it is a judgment of the situation, accurately enough.

The best he can do is go by the "feel" of the rubber as he moves the angle of a control. There are certain types of automatic control which will take over if it finds itself. The motorless man, previously described, usually acts as a sensitive third degree control, but in respect to maintaining position from the outside it is a poor performer. A fourth degree control may be when correctly designed it reacts in counter proportion to the disturbance from itself.

Following are shown graphically the usual relations of the various three and degree of control.—(See also Fig. 7.)

| Dist. from | Alt. | Direction | Yaw |
|------------|----------|-----------|----------|
| 1st Deg. | 1st Deg. | 1st Deg. | 1st Deg. |
| 2nd Deg. | 2nd Deg. | 2nd Deg. | 2nd Deg. |
| 3rd Deg. | 3rd Deg. | 3rd Deg. | 3rd Deg. |
| 4th Deg. | 4th Deg. | 4th Deg. | 4th Deg. |

The arrangement is so made that the angle of view is referred to tail or under any conditions. Where a momentary angle of view is due to an outer's air it may be indicated directly for fourth degree controls, as in the example just given.

The design and operation of a powered control system are further influenced by the necessity of meeting various emergency requirements of the ship.

The most important thing to be mentioned here is the effect of the ship's mass and moment of inertia. These stand the motion produced by any new set of outside conditions and the effect toward the position where a given disturbance would otherwise be stopped. The former effect also involves an element of time. The latter produces the slight modification in the directly indicated position. The ship's mass gives a large moment of inertia, compared to the ship's effective surface area, in a straightening force usually because it does down the ship and gives more resistance for effect and accurate control. Also, when the moment of inertia is large compared to individual disturbances it tends to smooth them over so that they partially counteract each other. Owing to the structural requirements this factor must be

much changed or adjusted in any one size and type of airship. As between different mass however, the larger mass tends to have the advantage at their larger proportional mass and the fact that the load is so usually in mass concentrated under the center as it is in small ships.

The properties have an effect that must now be considered. Multiple properties tend directly under the ship steering system a turning moment when one or more of them are slackened or stopped. The effect is so slight however, compared to the other forms we have been considering that under ordinary conditions it can hardly be noticed, much less obtained as a means of steering. It is only with very steady air conditions or with an efficient automatic control that it is worth a factor. In the latter case it is a means for adjustment of the control in half off of normal.

The effect due to the load on the propeller air stream is somewhat more serious. As the control action is the make of a propeller (especially a positive type) sometimes has to

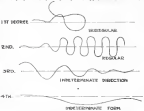


FIG. 7. TYPICAL FORCE CORRESPONDENCE TO DISTURBANCE

Beams or Columns. The beam or column is a considerable angle to prevent a steady condition. This works well for a straight flight, but when the radius of the flight path curve goes less than a certain amount the ship starts to turn the first control and radially changes the one that is most important. Also the angular setting of a fin is directly related to the radius of steering in a way. These troubles may be cut in a measure by increasing the rate of travel to fixed surface. The best arrangement for one propeller is to use a tail, but better toward an air.

Some form of power control (not necessarily automatic) an efficient means of development for many airships. The one reason that it is so hard to achieve is the fact that the one of an automatic control the problem is made worse by the fact that the manual or forced control the same source is, namely the power of the relative wind.

The size and shape of fins and control surfaces being in several practical ways other than that of an ordinary controlling the ship. It goes without saying that the resistance and weight must be fixed down to a minimum consistent with adequate strength. We also want to keep the side resistance as low as possible to reduce the difficulty of handling the ship on the ground. The necessary stabilizing effect can be obtained with the least surface by using surfaces of large swept area, a fin in a given perpendicular to the air of the ship. Various structural limitations however make it almost impossible to accomplish this in any great extent.

In the first place the surface must be quite rigidly fixed to the structure and the housing must be made of a material on a fin which projects more than about half the diameter of the airship at the point where it is attached. Also the surface must be made of a material which is a considerable area of the envelope, which usually involves a certain ground base length. This is to get maximum leverage and ground clearance it is better to let the fin project much beyond



FIG. 8. GOODYEAR TYPE "A" PONY BLIMP

the maximum diameter of the envelope. The balance tends some of these difficulties by concentrating all their control surface in a relative structure under the envelope. (See Fig. 1.) This arrangement has considerable resistance and with a long ship would give considerable ground clearance, strengthening the system in lowering of any control study.

The most steps it is found advisable to have at least part of the vertical stabilizing surface on top of the envelope. This is because it is most effective in preventing rolling and because the lower surface is constantly partly blanketed by the envelope when raised down. And there is usually a limit to the amount of surface that can be put underneath, and the balance has to be obtained over that of this in the Nipper construction. In this as in the present case it is

more efficient the greater the percentage of movable surface than as usual non-rolled shape, mechanical complexity usually demands a plan first for its type. (See Fig. 2.)

A non-rolled movable area when up is possible in quite flexible under the various wind forms. This not only changes the conditions of flow movement, but also modifies the rolling of the controls themselves by twisting certain wires and bearing system. There are three methods of meeting this condition: (a) Give the control wires up so that they move a long distance from a comparatively small movement of the padder. (b) Arrange the cables so that a shortening of the ship will pull the cables in a direction to assist for the original disturbance. (c) Put a self-acting device on the cables and have the control cables slack as the control wheel loosens.

Goodyear Type AA Pony Blimp

The second Pony Blimp, Type AA, which, like the first, is 20,000 cu. ft. in capacity is almost exactly ready for test flights. This was a slightly different from the Type A ship, the main change being that the car is designed to accommodate a tandem type motor.

General Structural Information.—Wherever possible, wooden construction is used throughout, thereby giving a light but strong car, capable of rough handling, such as is sometimes encountered in emergency landing. The car is divided in a series of four longitudinal, tapered to vaneer bulkheads by metal clips. The ribs and bottom are of this vaneer, which gives additional strength as well as protection. The car is made of about aluminum, covering the front and rear sections. The floor is of high enough to protect the pilot from the propeller air blast and of strong bulk by propeller blast. The car body is made of a single piece of aluminum, being strengthened as near as possible. A single solid bearing gear takes the front suspension, and in order to prevent shock when landing, a particular position is obtained on the bottom of the car. The length of the car is 13 ft. 6 in., the maximum width 20 ft. Weight, in running order, with the exception of the fuel, is approximately 600 lb.

Power Plant.—The motor used is a Lawrence, 20 hp., as noted, radial type, developed 50 hp., at 1,200 r.p.m., and driving a tractor engine.

Provision has been made for making this motor by mounting the crank directly within rack of the pilot, thereby enabling him to have complete control over the ship, which is a

desirable advantage for a tractor type ship over the pusher type when motor is not equipped with electric starter.

The three cylinders are connected together by an exhaust pipe which leads into a single outlet. A muffler will be provided to prevent the engine from overheating. A fan will be used to protect the motor from fire. A fan will separate the motor from the pilot and an automatic fire extinguisher is connected directly to the motor.

Gasoline Capacity.—The total fuel capacity of 40 gal. is carried in the car. This capacity gives a duration of flight, at full speed, of 10 hr. or 20 hr. for cruising speed. The main tank of 30 gal. is mounted in the rear section and the balance of 10 gal. is in a gravity tank.

The gravity tank is fed from the rear tank by means of the modified Stewart vacuum system, this being mounted directly into the gravity tank. A hand vacuum pump is also supplied to be used in case the Stewart system should ever fail. The gravity tank has a separate compartment for 5 gal. of motor oil, which feeds through the engine pump by means of a valve.

Due to having such a large gasoline capacity for so small a ship, it is desirable to take advantage of this fact in emergency landing. Therefore, an engine type discharge valve of standard Goodyear type is located on the main tank.

Controls.—The elevator and rudder controls and cable are mounted on the inside of the car, near the rear of the car. The elevators are controlled by a wheel mounted on the right hand side, and the rudder is controlled by straps.

Special seats are located on the ends of the control cables to permit quick assembly and disassembly of the control instrument. The main also carried out in the installation of the instruments is in form of the main instruments on the left hand side of the board and the bottom instruments on the right hand side, lighting all by one electric light. The main control instrument, the tachometer, is mounted in the center. The following instruments are mounted on the board: Tachometer, manometer (by special arrangement the manometer also serves as an altimeter), aneroid, meter revs, altimeter, oil pressure and temperature gauges. All the instruments are fully illuminated.

The manometer mentioned above is of standard liquid type, the same as previously used in all Goodyear ships. This manometer has been specially mounted on a pivoted joint which serves to keep the instrument in a vertical position when ascending or descending, thereby giving more accurate readings than can be obtained if the manometer inclined with the ship's inclination. To take advantage of the revolving joint, a pointer is also attached which indicates on a dial in degrees the amount of inclination.

Overseas—Where cable connections clip faster to our they can be easily removed by taking out a rivet on the outside. The idea is to have a means for quick removal and disassembly of the ship. Considerable thought was given to this question so as not to have any interference with passengers getting into or out of the cockpit.

Top—For protection in case of accident a light top is mounted over the cockpit. A trigger glass window is used to enable the pilot to have a clear view. The side curtains are so constructed that they immediately open by means of a rubber cord when pulling a wire. This enables passengers to get out of the car very quickly in case of emergency. The top is quickly detached from the car body when not needed.

Parachute—Two exit doors are built into the sides of the car and under the rear seat; they open through the bottom of the car. A parachute pack is placed in each of these compartments and is held in place by a door through the cockpit. This pack is fastened to the car by two cables of 1/2 in. gage, so that when the parachute is opened the pack will fall clear of the car before it falls below the pack.



CAR OF THE PONY BLIMP A-1, WITH LAURENCE OF THE MARINE ENGINE

Drop Edge—Scarcely five feet of 3/4 in. pipe is located under the pilot's seat in a suitable container. The level can be released when needed by means of a trap door on the bottom of the car. When released for use, one end of the pipe is fastened to the front side and a handle is formed by cable connection to the bag. This arrangement permits easy towing or holding of the ship.

Seat—Two seats are provided to adequately accommodate two passengers. The rear seat, however, is sufficiently spacious for two passengers, if desired. The seats are built of steel and upholstered in leather and back, making a comfortable seat for long flights. The pilot's space, including the seat, is very roomy.

Engineering Division Has New Test Furnace

The National Station, Engineering Division, Air Service, in supervising a test of the Gourdon-Lesieur at St. Louis, Ohio, has installed during the war for the purpose of heat treating steel tubing in quantities for airplane construction but was not completed until recently. It is a new completed and undergoing a series of tests to determine the feasibility of producing heat-treated steel tubing of very high tensile strength and elastic limit, in particular meet Air Service Specification No. 16-233, for steel tubing.

The furnace, located at the plant of the Ohio Seamless Tube Co., at 7 ft. in diameter and 22 ft. long, electrically heated and automatically controlled as an large constant temperature within very narrow limits. The tubing is lowered into the furnace, which is heated so that the top of the furnace is level with the floor, in a dark enclosure. The furnace is 10 ft. long, 10 ft. wide, and 10 ft. high, by means of a crane. On reaching the required heat the end of the furnace is heated out of the furnace, transported over the furnace which where the bottom of the furnace is opened and the steel tubing, at the quenching temperature, is allowed to drop into the oil quenching bath.

The quenching operation is conducted in a similar manner, except that the maximum temperature of the tubing in the furnace is, of course, lower than it was for the quenching operation. These temperatures are approximately 1400 deg. to 1600 deg. Fahr. for the quenching operation and 500 deg. to 1000 deg. Fahr. for the quenching operation, depending on the quality of steel used and the physical characteristics desired.

This furnace will be used principally for the heat-treating of alloy steel tubing with special reference to the tubing used in the car. Up to the present time no steel tubing has been produced in quantities which will meet the requirements of Specification No. 16-233 calling for 200,000 lb. tensile strength with 5 per cent elongation in two inches.

The Gourdon-Lesieur Pursuit Airplane

By Charles Gourdon*

General Fundamentals of the Problem—We wanted to build a fast monoplane armed with two machine guns and powered by a Hispano-Suiza 300 hp. engine. We determined on the construction for the following reasons:

The efficiency of the monoplane is superior to that of the biplane. The engine chosen gave very satisfactory results. Also, the construction of the prototype of the biplane with 100 hp. Hispano-Suiza engine and their tests showed that it was possible to greatly exceed the results obtained with this engine without increasing the power of the engine. The biplane was a very successful model for the period in which it was built; it has, however, had its day. The most successful one was within the capabilities of a large number of factories in the Paris region, but when it commenced to appear a little slow and when the Technical Section was forced to the use of engine of greater and greater

parts of the machine should in general be substituted with the same efficiency.

Choice of the Dimensions of the Machine—The amount and the weight of fuel to be carried for two and machine guns, flight, and comparison with existing machines made us adopt a weight of 1,415 lb.

As the weight of 2.2 lb. per sq. ft. did not appear excessive for a monoplane we chose an area of 200 sq. ft. To attain the area in a monoplane without giving it excessive span it was necessary to choose a somewhat elliptical form. We adopted a wing of 39.8 ft. span and 5.66 ft. chord. The aspect ratio (4.7) of such a wing may appear small, but strength considerations and economy for us led to exceed limited dimensions for the span.

Choice of the General Arrangement of Trussing—The form of the wing trussing under load is to be evolved as a re-



Front View

power it appeared to us clearly that the risk to be run in constructing a new airplane furnished with a new engine was not counterbalanced by the hope of obtaining mechanical results.

Experience has confirmed our predictions, since the performance obtained with our airplane are comparable to those of new machines having engines of 300 hp.

The choice of the engine and monoplane construction being determined, we set wished to make an efficient, strong and simple machine. Numerous analyses with monoplane have shown that the low total resistance of these airplanes should correspond to very great strength. Let us assume that the pilot has to maintain a constant speed of 150 mph.

The force of gravity is then the aspect of the airplane, and in a vertical line the speed increases and the resistance of the air on the wings, fuselage and propeller counterbalances the action of gravity. The speed limited that depends essentially upon the resistance of the machine. Numerous tests made in the laboratory on a scale model of our machine and on a machine with existing machines seemed to us to predict a diving velocity of about 550 m. p. h. If the pilot wants the machine very quickly when the greatest speed is reached the wings will be highly loaded. We have assumed that the machine can be tilted in an inclined, in fact, however, the length of time in a somewhat greater. Under these conditions it is easily proved that the wings support a load about fourteen times the normal load. Then, it is easy to explain, apart from details as resistance, the frequency of analysis on monoplane, the low total resistance of which permitted speeds in the neighborhood of 220 m. p. h. and the parts of which would not withstand loads greater than five times the normal load. All the bearings of the war the factor 5 was believed by the Technical Section to be ample.

We considered it necessary to design the parts of our machine so that, when they were stressed to their maximum, the elastic limit of the metal should not be reached. We made at least should not be exceeded. We, therefore, permitted for ourselves the surface of having the metal stressed in the neighborhood of three times the normal load. We, therefore, permitted for ourselves the surface of having the metal stressed in the neighborhood of three times the normal load. It is understood that all the

show the efficiency and stability of the machine. A rigid machine cannot be made of cables and pins; wires are used in the construction to principal supports of the wing structure, while attaching is never less than two pins. Also, cables and wires can be used only in tension, and cable trussing should be designed so that the wing will withstand top loads when flying up-loads down and standing. We, therefore, decided to employ for wing supports members as rigid as steel tubes.

The trussing arrangement, as shown in the front view of the machine, is also arranged so that it has a low total resistance. Also, the air resistance is low on the top of the wing, therefore, by means of a well-known theorem, the air speed is greater above the wing than below, and the resistance of parts placed below the wing is less than that placed above it.

Each of the wing spars is attached at five points to the rigid trussing which supports the wings to the fuselage. We have shown the position of the spars of attachment on the spars so that the bending moments are equal at each of the points of attachment. When the wing is loaded, it is obvious that the spars are under bending stress by the action of the loads and under compression by means of the resistance of the air. Computations show that the bending moments at the point of attachment of the spars are equal if the spars are approximately equal, and that they come apart from the size of the wing. The legs would be obviously equal if the compression due to the aerodynamic of the wings is not taken into account.

The points of attachment of the spars then choose, the bending of the spars is such that it will be symmetrical with respect to the center of gravity. Therefore, in the angles of the spars and the spars will be due only to the compression of the spars under load and in shortening of the spars. Variations of length in these parts are accordingly slight, and we may consider the spars as constant, and consequently make the attachment equal. The attachment of the spars to the wings is formed of soft steel fillets which are held so as to be constantly under the spars. The spars are attached to the wings by two large hollow tubes giving ample bearing surface.

The struts are attached to the fuselage by large threaded tubes which permit adjusting the wing. It is shown that the winging system is a constant of triangles causing perfect rigidity. Finally, the system of the outer struts are connected by small struts to the points of attachment of the inner struts so that the former will follow the load of the struts under load with a sufficient factor (12 has been chosen).

* Translated from the French by John Jay 26, 1933. (L.A.)



INTERNAL ARRANGEMENT OF THE NEW CAR OF THE PONY BLIMP, LOOKING FORWARD

thrust. If the engine can be throttled to a lower speed, the propeller may develop a negative thrust. If the engine is completely dead, and at rest, the propeller will offer resistance because of its resistance-producing mass. When the engine is dead but the propeller is still revolving, the landing effect of the propeller acting as a windmill or air turbine may be important, but only when the forward speed is very great, as in a dive.

Let us consider whether any appreciable landing effect can be secured by raising the engine on the ground at a very low speed, instead of completely stopping it. As an example, take propeller No. 5 of Dr. W. F. Durand's report No. 14 for the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics. Assume it to have a diameter of 94.5 in. and that it is a card with a laboratory having a maximum speed of 1370 r.p.m. in level flight near the ground. The $V/\omega D$ ratio at a speed of 130 m.p.h., which closely approximates the case of the Curtiss E-4 machine, is $0.55 \times 0.43 = 0.23$. In this ratio V is the airplane speed in miles per hour, ω is the engine speed in revolutions per minute and D the propeller diameter in feet. The thrust coefficient from Plate VI in Dr. Durand's report is 0.55 and the thrust is given by the formula

$$T = \frac{C_T \rho V^4 D^5}{100}, \text{ where}$$

$$\Delta = 0.001, \text{ the density of the air}$$

Applying the formula

$$T = \frac{0.55 \times (1.4)^4 \times (168)^5 \times 0.001}{100} = 860 \text{ lb.}$$

The target coefficient is 0.79 so that the target is

$$Q = \frac{0.79 D^2 \Delta}{C_T}$$

$$= \frac{0.79 \times (0.8)^2 \times (128)^3 \times 0.001}{3300}$$

$$= 1270 \text{ lb.-ft.}$$

The power under the above conditions is 410 hp., which the Liberty engine can just develop. The coefficient is 40 per cent, showing that the propeller would be fairly suitable for the E-4-L Curtiss machine.

In the National Advisory Committee's Report No. 36, results are given for the main propeller at negative thrust for

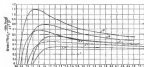


Fig. 2

very high values of $V/\omega D$. Suppose we consider 50 m.p.h. the landing speed of the E-4-L machine. The negative thrust is given by the formula

$$T = \frac{C_T \rho V^4 D^5}{100}$$

and its maximum value occurs at a value of $V/\omega D$ of approximately 1.5 when the brake-horse coefficient has a maximum value of 0.40. The target speed for this value of $V/\omega D$ must be 320 r.p.m. and the thrust will be

$$0.40 \times (0.8)^4 \times (170)^5 \times 0.001 = 107 \text{ lb.}$$

No power curves are given for the test and the experiment might be made that to produce that negative thrust, the Liberty engine would have to develop more power than it can deliver at 320 r.p.m. The negative thrust so developed is only

equivalent to 24 hp., however, and if the $V/\omega D$ ratio were decreased to 1.1 by increasing the engine speed to 400 r.p.m., the negative thrust would still be 107 lb.

The thrust propeller No. 8 was selected quite at random, and yet its maximum landing thrust is found to be 103 lb. at the landing speed of the E-4-L machine. Since this is about 40 lb. more than the ideal drag of the same machine, it is by no means negligible, but this propeller is not a very good illustration of what it is possible to do with a propeller in the region of negative thrust. In the curves of Fig. 2, taken from Plate XXX of Report No. 36, it is seen that the brake-horse coefficient is not so very much greater than the approximately asymptotic value of the coefficient, at very high values of $V/\omega D$ where the number of revolutions per minute becomes very small. With such a propeller, the maximum brake-horse coefficient would be sufficient not to do very much

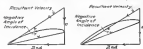


Fig. 3

greater than if the propeller were not revolving, and thus a positive forward action simply by virtue of its resistance area. But the brake-horse coefficient of propeller No. 16, as indicated in the curve series of curves, is more than seven as great as that of propeller No. 8, and at an airplane speed of 52 m.p.h., a $V/\omega D$ ratio of 1.3 and engine speed of 633 r.p.m., would, with the same propeller diameter of 94.5 in., give a negative thrust of 440 lb., which would suffice the landing very easily. Moreover, propeller No. 10 has a maximum brake-horse coefficient much greater than the values shown on the curves for very large values of $V/\omega D$ and approaching the condition of a non-revolving propeller.

The interpretation of Report No. 36 indicates that for a given size of propeller, wide blades have a larger brake effect than narrow blades, and that the brake effect of the highest pitch propeller is less than that of the lower-pitch propeller. The latter result is quite reasonable as can be seen from the drag-coefficient measurements to Fig. 3, where with a low-pitch propeller the tendency will be for the air to strike the propeller blade element at a larger negative angle to the chord.

As a student might be made that as the landing run proceeds and $V/\omega D$ decreases, the $V/\omega D$ ratio would decrease so that the pilot would run the propeller into a region of low brake-effect coefficients, or even of positive thrust, and it is quite possible that pilots may at times find considerable difficulty in getting the best landing effect. But with a broad-bladed, low-pitch propeller, it seems quite probable that pilots would find an advantage in experimenting as their landing run and they would get the best possible combination. The results of the landing run resulting therefrom might make all the difference between a poor and a good commercial machine.

Devices for Shortening Landing Run

The most obvious device for shortening a landing run is the use of an airbrake consisting of flat plates hinged at the ends of the fuselage. To avoid the effect of the highest pitch to operate such brakes, it is advisable to keep the plates arranged so that the relative wind will force the plate planes to open when the opening of the under flap is retarded by the track. A fairly simple arrangement for the control of such an airbrake is shown in Fig. 4. This type of brake has been used on British machines, but objection may be raised to its employment on the grounds of complications and also that the resistance of the brake mechanism modifies as the speed decreases.

In a British test, the model body RE-1, shown in Fig. 5, had

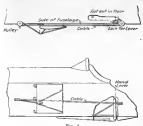


Fig. 4

a length of 20% to 30% of the full span, and a brake area of approximately 0.006 sq. ft. in a 40-ft. per sec. wind, the increase in drag due to a 10-degree opening of the braked was 0.0001 lb., giving a brake-effect coefficient of 0.001 per sq. ft. per m.p.h. This indicates that airbrakes will offer practically the same resistance as flat plates freely exposed.

The full-size tests of the braked for the RE-1 at 5.50 sq. ft. Imagine braked of 20 sq. ft. were applied to the Curtiss E-4-L machine, whose landing run has been previously discussed and which is a larger machine than the RE-1. The resistance at 50 m.p.h. will be 615 and the L/D ratio becomes 6.2. The old landing run now becomes 644 ft., instead of the 750 ft., previously computed. It is quite clear from this that the effect of airbrakes is small, and hardly worth reckoning. On a very small machine it is possible that braked of a large size applied to the wing area might be useful with some satisfactory results.

While airbrakes may be of use as entirely unimportant, the use of wing flaps extending over almost the entire trailing

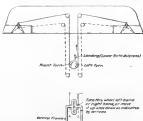


Fig. 5

edge is worthy of the most serious consideration. This device has been used most successfully in a Sopwith 110 fighter

single-seat machine and in a machine built by the Pinner Aviation Co. A diagrammatic showing for a proposed monoplane wing flap mechanism, which the function of the airbrake is shown in Fig. 6.

In some British experiments carried out on an R.A.F. wing section with the flaps set positive according to 0.500 of the chord, the maximum lift coefficient was increased to the rate of 1.25 to 1, the flap being set at 60 deg. to the wing. This maximum lift occurs when the angle of incidence of the wing proper is in the neighborhood of 5 to 8 deg. Such an increase in the maximum lift would decrease the landing speed in the ratio of 1 to 0.85. If the flap were used intelligently by the pilot, it could be used effectively as a brake, after the machine had settled at a speed and attitude corresponding to the maximum lift, by being set at a maximum pitch of 90 deg. to the wing, with the wing itself at an attitude corresponding to the desired pitch landing. Even when the flap was only set at a 45-degree positive angle to the wing, the lift of the E-4-L at 14 deg. was increased in the ratio of 0.45 to 1.

If the maximum stress applied to the Curtiss E-4-L machine and used as already explained, with flap set at a positive 80-deg. angle for landing and a positive 90-deg. angle for landing, the landing speed would become 49 m.p.h., and the landing run would be reduced to about 205 ft., as compared with the 750 ft. previously computed. A definite conclusion would be that wing flaps extending along the rear edge would be of very appreciable help.

It is very often assumed that a variable-pitch propeller will

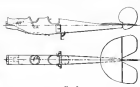


Fig. 6

decrease the landing speed by opening a large negative thrust on the airplane in the dive. A short consideration of the problem will indicate that this conception is erroneous.

The small extent of plate the effect of a negative propeller thrust will be simply to increase the angle of attack for any speed of glide of the machine. It is only on a very steep, almost vertical, dive that the negative thrust will not modify by keeping down the terminal velocity. On descent from the dive, the negative propeller thrust will have no effect upon the landing speed, which will always be defined by the maximum K_L of the plane. The variable-pitch propeller will, however, have a very powerful effect on the landing run and will be probably the most efficacious method of landing possible.

In Fig. 7, the forward skid arrangement for the English Army and the Curtiss machine are shown. Such arrangements are equivalent to the placing of an extra tail-wheel and an extra counterweight, without the same resistance entailed in carrying the center of gravity far behind the wheels, which tends to pull the machine in sideways and a damaging effect on the fold due to an extremely heavy tail-wheel load. If, in the Curtiss E-4-L machine, the skid traverse effect of 140 lb. were increased to 300 lb. by the use of a forward skid, the forward run would be shortened to 615 ft. instead of 750 ft., which is an appreciable difference.

Trucks on wheels have been avoided because of the tendency induced of moving the center of gravity forward and forward wheel or skid they might become a very useful device.

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REPORT Serial No. 440

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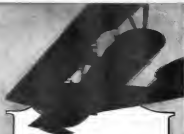
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